5. Nutrition and Health Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification. Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women & Child Development is engaged in advocacy, trainings and generating awareness on important nutrition issues among different level of functionaries and the messes.

Increased emphasis on Promotion of appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices which are as follows:-

- Initiation of breastfeeding immediately after birth, preferably within one hour.
- Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months
- Appropriate and adequate Complementary feeding from six months of age while continuing breastfeeding.
- The National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding have been developed and disseminated all over the country.
- Implementation of The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, also known as the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act

6. Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System, Antodaya Anna Yojna by the Department of Food & Consumer Affairs

7. Other measures include improving agricultural and horticulture produce and improving the purchasing power of the people though various income generating scheme.

Death of children

†2765. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether save the children's latest report states that a child dies every 15 seconds in the country due to various diseases and 20 lakh children die before reaching the age of 5 years;

(b) whether over 20 percent of the world's child deaths occur in the country and one in three of all malnourished children in the world live in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to protect the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) There are two main sources of data providing information on child mortality and malnutrition. These sources are a) Registrar General of India and b) National Family Health Survey.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In the office of the Registrar General of India Report 'Causes of Death-2001-03 in India', nutritional deficiencies are reported to be responsible for only 2.8% death of children aged 0-4 years and 2% death of infants. The Infant Mortality Rate is 55 and Child Mortality Rate is 16 per 1000 deaths (RGI report No. 2 of 2008).

Undernutrition in children under five years is 42.5% in our country as per National Family Health Survey-3 in 2005-06.

(c) The Government accords high priority to overall issue of malnutrition, and particularly, in respect of children. With this in view, Government has universalized ICDS scheme with increased financial provision in 2009-10 for expansion of Anganwadi centers as well as for higher nutritional norms for providing supplementary nutrition to the children below 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The various schemes being implemented by different Ministries which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of children are given in the Statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 2764 part (c).]

Child marriage

†2766. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the extent to which the proposal and the recommendations made by the Law Commission pertaining to prevention of child marriage in 2008 have proved to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): The recommendations pertaining to "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006" made by the Law Commission of India in its 205th Report on "Proposal to Amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Other Allied Laws" of 2008, have not been accepted by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Effectiveness of ICDS

2767. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 years of Integrated Child Development Services programme has not curtailed growing number of malnourished children in the country;

(b) if so, whether 42 per cent *i.e.* 61 million of children below 5 years of age are underweight and suffer from malnutrition;

(c) if so, whether the Minister has announced 14 lakhs Anganwadi centres across the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.